

Express Mail Label No. EV 655365792 US
Application No. 10/614,399
Atty. Docket No. 4811-18

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1 - 26 (Canceled).

27. (Currently Amended) A method of forming a mold insert for molding an article, comprising:

providing a flocked transfer sheet, a thermosetting adhesive film, a thermoplastic backing film;

laminating the flocked transfer sheet, the thermosetting adhesive film, and the backing film together to form a mold insert; and

forming the mold insert into a three-dimensional shape matching that substantially corresponds to a surface of at least a portion of a mold; ~~for forming a molded article comprising the mold insert, wherein the thermosettable adhesive film is thermoset before the forming step~~

positioning the mold insert in the mold;

while the mold insert is positioned in the mold, introducing a resin into the mold to form a molded article comprising resin and the mold insert, wherein the thermosettable adhesive film is thermoset before the introducing step.

28. (Canceled).

29. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 28, further comprising:

locating the mold insert in the mold; and

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introducing resin into the mold, such that a resin contacts the mold insert to form a molded article.

30. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim [[27]] 29, wherein a release sheet is affixed to a first surface defined by the flock fibers and the thermosettable adhesive layer to an opposing second surface defined by the flock fibers.

31. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 30, wherein during the laminating step the thermosettable adhesive film is fully activated.

32. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 27, wherein the laminating step comprises:

contacting the adhesive film with the backing film to form an intermediate assembly; and laminating the intermediate assembly to the flocked transfer sheet.

33. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 27, wherein a continuous length of the flocked transfer sheet comprises a plurality of discrete flocked regions.

34. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 27, wherein the thermosettable adhesive layer and backing films are each a cast and/or extruded, continuous film.

35. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 27, wherein the ~~thermosettable adhesive layer is flocked regions and backing film of the molded article are~~ not a fabric, and wherein the thermosettable adhesive is distributed discontinuously over the adjoining surface of the flocked transfer sheet.

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36. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 27, wherein, after the laminating step, a plurality of mold inserts are located on a continuous length of backing film and further comprising: cutting the backing film to provide a plurality of disconnected mold inserts.

37. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 36, wherein, after the cutting step, the mold insert comprises a flocked area surrounded at least substantially by an unflocked area of the backing film.

38. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 27, wherein the flocked transfer sheet comprises poly(cyclohexylene-dimethylene terephthalate) or PCT.

39. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 38, wherein the flocked transfer sheet comprises a plurality of flock fibers and the plurality of flock fibers comprise at least about 25 wt.% PCT.

40. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 27, wherein the flocked transfer sheet comprises a plurality of flock fibers and the lengths of at least most of the flock fibers ranges from about 0.3 to about 4 mm.

41. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 40, wherein at least most of the flock fibers have a titre ranging from about 0.5 to about 20 Dtex.

42. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 40, wherein a substrate of the flocked transfer sheet comprises at least about 60% fibers/in².

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43. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 40, wherein at least most of the flock fibers [[has]] have a denier of no more than about 2.

44. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 40, wherein an antimicrobial agent is located in at least most of the flock fibers.

45. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 40, wherein an antimicrobial agent is located on the exterior surfaces of at least most of the flock fibers.

46. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 27, wherein the backing film is nonwoven.

47. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 27, wherein during the laminating step the thermosettable adhesive is thermoset.

48. (Previously Presented) A mold insert produced by the steps of Claim 27.

49. (New) The method of Claim 28, wherein, in the molded article, the adhesive film and backing film are positioned between the flock and the resin.